any decision to prevent sea erosion in the country which is causing severe damages in the sea coast; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) and (b) investigation, design, construction and maintenance of anti sea erosion works is primarily the responsibility of concerned State Government and therefore anti sea erosion works in the country are being carried out by the respective State Governments with their own financial resources. The coastal Protection and Development Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (RM) Central Water Commission and comprising members representing all coastal states advises the State Governments on the most effective and economic solution to coastal erosion problems. Central Loan Assistance to states for taking up anti sea erosion works was discontinued from March, 1992 as decided by the National Development Council. State Governments have been approaching Government of India for financial assistance. Accordingly, Coastal Protection & Development Advisory Committee recommended preparation of National Coastal Protection Project and pose for external assistance. Coastal States have been requested for furnishing proposals regarding construction of anti sea erosion works at vulnerable points along the coastline of the State for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project under preparation at the Centre. Proposals from some states are still awaited.

Condition of Ground Water Reserves

148. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the condition of ground water reserves in India;

(b) whether this ground water is being consumed with any specific long-term plan or there is no planning; and

(c) how Government intend to maintain the present ground water reserves and which States are co-operating in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Total annual replenishable ground water resources of India are estimated at 43.18 million hectare metres. Keeping in view an annual provision of 7.09 million hectare metres for domestic, industrial and other uses, available ground water resources for irrigation is 36.08 million hectare metres. Utilisable irrigation potential for development is tentatively estimated at 64.05 million hectare metres.

(b) and (c) There are reports of over exploitation of ground water in certain pockets of some States resulting in depletion of ground water level. Water being the State subject, its regulation and development is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Government have taken the following steps in this direction:

(i) Circulation of Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

(ii) Circulation of a Manual on artificial recharge of ground water to the States/Union Territories to enable them to formulate area specific artificial recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels.

(iii) Constitution of the Central Ground Water Board as an Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for regulation and control of ground water management and development.

Details of the legislations enacted by the States so far are given below:

(i) The Government of Gujarat has enacted (but not enforced) ground water legislation to be applicable to nine districts in the State.

(ii) The Government of Tamil Nadu has enacted the Madras Metropolitan Area Ground Water Act, 1987. (Madras Metropolitan Area Ground Water Regulation Act, 1987, Tamil Nadu Act 27 of 1987).

(iii) Madhya Pradesh Peyu Jal Parirakshan Adhiniyam, 1986, (Madhya Pradesh Adhiniyam No. 3 of 1987) enacted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

(iv) The Government of Maharashtra enacted Maharashtra Ground Water (Regulation for Drinking Water Purposes) Act, 1993.

Some more States are reported to be in the process of enacting a legislation on ground water.

Sufficient Water in Rivers for Various Uses

149. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether sufficient water is available in rivers in the country for various uses; if so, the details thereof, river-wise;

(b) whether Government have estimated the annual average quantity of water available in the rivers in the country;

(c) if so, the quantity of such water and the average quantity of water that flows annually through the rivers in the country; and

(d) the steps taken for the judicious and optimal use of water in these rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c) The average annual availability of water in the river basins of India is assessed as 1869 billion cubic metres (BCM). Taking into consideration the population of the country (as per 1991 census) the average per capita availability of water is estimated as 2200 cubic metres. Any situation of water availability of less than 1000 cubic metres per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Based on this criteria, 6 River Basins, namely (i) Cauvery (ii) Pennar (iii) Sabarmati (iv) East flowing rivers between Mahanadi & Godavari (v) East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari & (vi) West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni fall in water scarcity category. A statement showing the relevant details of basin-wise availability of water resources is enclosed. (*see* below).

(d) Keeping in view the future needs of water, the Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), preparation of National Perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, promotion of efficient and economic use of water for various purposes and conservation and launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected on-going major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects.